

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): Apparatus for bonding soft biological tissue having an incision therein, comprising:

forceps adapted to grip a portion of the tissue on both sides of the incision;  
electrodes secured to said forceps for contacting said tissue portion;  
an electrical power source for providing a high frequency electrical signal to said electrodes to be passed through said tissue portion; and  
wherein said electrodes are dimensioned relative to size of said tissue portion to be an effective heat sink for conducting heat away from said tissue and thereby prevent sticking of tissue to said electrodes to provide tissue welding that forms a weld to reconnect the tissue.

Claim 40 (original): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said electrodes are dimensioned to have a volume which is at least 5 times that of the tissue portion volume.

Claim 41 (original): The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said electrodes are made of a metal with a high heat conductivity.

Claims 41-64 (canceled)

Claim 65 (new) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said electrodes are secured to said forceps.